

REMARKS

The claim has been amended to further clarify a point of difference over the cited references. With the claimed invention, the spring that extends the extensible item is laterally offset with respect to the track. One effect of this is that the spring can extend to its retracted position over a distance greater than the length of the track. This allows greater extension of the extensible portion from its housing.

Both of the cited references teach away from such a structure. The Johnson reference, discussed by the Board, has a plug which is extended into and out of a housing based on extension of a coil spring 92. But note that that coil spring 92, shown in Figure 8, is not laterally displaced from the track which must necessarily be the item 94. See column 11, lines 56 and 57. Instead, the track and the spring are overlapping. As a result, the displacement of the spring is limited by the extent of the track. If, instead, the spring were displaced to the side, as indicated in the present application, the spring could extend a greater distance throughout the housing to further extend the plug a greater distance outwardly. Unlike an antenna application, greater extension may be of no interest in the cited Johnson reference.

It appears that there is no coil spring in Ishida.

Since neither reference nor their combination teaches the claimed structure, namely, the structure wherein the spring is arranged to extend a greater distance than the length of the track, reconsideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 8, 2005

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